Life Of The Great Martyr Phanourius The Newly Manifested Of Rhodes

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- Apolytikion/Kontakion
- Life of St. Phanourios
- St. Phanourios, The Patron Saint Of Lost Articles, & Protection Of Priests
- Phanouropita Recipes

Whose memory the Holy Church celebrates on August 27

Dismissal Hymn of the Martyr.
Fourth Tone

*A HEAVENLY song of praise is brightly sung on the earth; * the hosts of the Angels keep an earthly festival now in splendour and radiant joy; * from on high, they praise with hymns thy suff'rings and struggles; * and below, the Church doth laud the heavenly glory * thou foundest by thy contests and pains, O glorious Phanurius.*

Kontakion of the Martyr.
Third Tone

*FROM a vile captivity, * thou didst deliver the Lord's priests, * and, O godly-minded one, * didst break their bonds by divine might; * thou didst bravely shame the tyrants' * audacious madness, * giving joy unto the Angels, O thou Great Martyr. * O Phanurius most glorious, * we all revere thee * as a true warrior of God.*

"Phanurius bestoweth light upon all the faithful,
Even though he long lay in the darkness of the earth."

From when Phanurios (also spelled Phanurius), the splendid athlete of the Lord and invincible martyr, came, and of what parentage he was, and even in what age he lived and under the reign of which emperors he waged his struggle and fought his fight, we have been unable to ascertain; for the account of his life has been lost owing to the vicissitudes of time, as many other things also have been lost or become obscure and unclear.

We know only that when the Hagarenes ruled the renowned island of Rhodes, having conquered it because of our sins, he who became ruler of the island wished to rebuild the ramparts of the city that past sieges had ravaged. Several ruined dwellings on the outskirts of the fortress had been abandoned because of their association with the old fortress, which was a furlong to the south. The Hagarenes were wont to gather stones from the ruins for their construction.

It so happened that, while excavating and reinforcing that place, they discovered a most beautiful church partly buried in ruins. Excavating as far as the floor of the temple, they found

many holy icons, all decayed and crumbling, yet the icon of the holy Phanourius was whole and entire; indeed, it seemed as though it had been painted but that very day. And when this all-venerable temple was uncovered, together with its sacred icons, the hierarch of that place, Nilus by name, a man of great sanctity and learning, came and read the inscription of the icon, which said, “The Holy Phanourius.”

The saint was depicted upon the icon as follows: He was shown as a young man, arrayed as a soldier, holding a cross in his right hand, and at the upper part of the cross, there was a lighted taper. Round about the perimeter of the icon were twelve scenes from the only one's martyrdom, which showed the saint being examined before the magistrate; then amid a multitude of soldiers, who were beating him about the mouth and head with stones; then stretched out upon the ground while the soldiers flogged him; then, stripped naked while they rent his flesh with iron hooks; then incarcerated in a dungeon, and again standing before the tyrant's tribunal; then being burned with candles; then bound to a rack; then cast amidst wild beasts; then crushed with a great rock; then standing before idols holding burning coals in his hands, whilst a demon nearby wept and lamented; and finally he is shown standing erect in the midst of a fiery furnace, his hands, as were, uplifted towards Heaven.

From the twelve scenes depicted on the icon, the holy hierarch perceived that the saint was a martyr. Then, straightaway, that good and pious man sent deputations to the rulers of that place, asking that they consign to him that temple for restoration; but they declined to do this. Therefore, the hierarch travelled to Constantinople alone and obtained a decree empowering him to rebuild the church; thus, it was restored to its state, which can be seen even to this day outside the city. It has become the source of many miracles, of which I shall relate one for the profit of many, that all who love and venerate the saint may rejoice.

At that time, the island of Crete had no Orthodox hierarch but a Latin bishop. It was ruled then by the Venetians, who had shrewdly refused to permit an Orthodox hierarch to be consecrated whenever one died. They did this with evil intent, thinking that with time, they could thus convert the Orthodox to the papist dogmas. If Orthodox men wished to obtain ordination, they had to go to Cythera.

It came to pass that three deacons went forth from Crete to be ordained priests by the hierarch there. When this had been accomplished, and they were returning to their own country, the Hagarenes captured them at sea and brought them to Rhodes, where they were sold as slaves to other Hagarenes. The newly consecrated priests lamented their misfortune day and night.

But in Rhodes, they heard tell of the great wonders wrought by the Greatmartyr Phanourius, and straightway they made fervent supplication to the saint, beseeching him with tears to

deliver them from their bitter bondage. And this they did each separately, without knowing anything of what the others were doing, for they had each been sold to a different master. Now, in accordance with God's providence, however, they were all three permitted by their masters to go and worship at the temple of the saint. Guided by God, they came all together and fell down before the sacred icon of the saint, watering the ground with streams of tears and entreating him to deliver them out of the hands of the Hagarenes.

Then they departed, somewhat consoled, each to his own master, hoping that they would obtain mercy, which in fact did come to pass; for the holy one had compassion upon their tears and hearkened unto their supplication. That night, he appeared to the Hagarenes, who were the masters of the captive priests, and commanded them to permit the servants of God to go and worship in his temple lest he bring dreadful destruction upon them. But the Hagarenes, thinking the matter sorcery, loaded them with chains and made their torments more onerous.

Then the Greatmartyr Phanourius went to them that night, brought them forth from their bonds, and encouraged them, saying that the following day he would free them by all means. He then appeared to the Hagarenes and, reproaching them with severity, said: "*If by tomorrow ye have not set your servants at liberty, ye shall behold the power of God!*" Thus saying, the holy one vanished. And, O, the wonder! As many as inhabited those houses all arose blind and paralysed, tormented with the most dreadful pangs, the least with the greatest.

But, though bedridden, with the help of their kinfolk, they considered what to do and finally decided to send for the captives. When the three wretched priests had come, they inquired if they could heal them, and they answered: "We shall beseech God. *Let His will be done.*" But the saint appeared again to the Hagarenes on the third night and said to them: "*If ye do not send to my house letters of manumission for the priests, ye shall have neither the health, nor the light [of sight] which ye desire.*" And when they had again conferred with their kinfolk and friends, each one composed a letter of emancipation for his own slave, which was left before the icon of the saint. And O, the wonder!

Even before the messengers sent to the temple returned, those who before were blind and paralysed were healed; and marvelling, they set the priests free and dispatched them to their homeland amicably. The priests, though, had a copy of the icon of St. Phanourius painted and took it with them to their own country, and each year the memory of the holy one is piously celebrated amongst them. By the prayers of the martyr, may Christ God have mercy upon us. Amen!

(Source: *Orthodox Life*, Holy Trinity Monastery, Jordanville, New York., No.4.1982., pp. 11-12 & 20)

St. Phanourios, The Patron Saint Of Lost Articles, & Protection Of Priests

It's a pious Eastern Orthodox custom to try baking Panouropita (cake for St. Phanourios - pron. Phanouropita) if you lose something. St. Phanourios, the patron saint of lost articles, helps people find anything from missing jewellery to good health and happiness. *"Phanourios"* comes from the Greek word *"phanerono"* (I reveal). When asking St. Phanourios for help, a cake is baked for the forgiveness of his mother, a troubled woman. The cake can be brought to the Church and placed to be blessed by the parish priest. Afterwards, those at the Church share the holy blessed bread, Panouropita.

Phanouropita

1 cup of sugar
1 cup vegetable oil
2 cups orange juice
3/4 cup light or dark raisins
3/4 cup chopped walnuts
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon vanilla
4 cups flour

Beat sugar and oil together until creamy yellow. Dissolve baking soda in orange juice and pour slowly into the sugar mixture. Add other ingredients and pour into a 9" x 13" greased pan. Bake at 350°F for 45-50 minutes or until an inserted toothpick pulls out cleanly. Cut into squares for serving after it's blessed at the Church by the parish priest. Ask the parish priest to remember St. Phanourios' mother.

Phanouropita Recipe – *9 ingredients:*

3 cups plain flour
1 cup sugar
¾ cup olive oil
¾ cup orange juice
½ cup brandy
½ cup raisins (or crushed walnuts)
1 tsp. cinnamon
¼ tsp. clove powder
1 ½ tsp. baking powder

1. Beat oil and sugar with electric beaters until dissolved and creamy yellow.
2. Add the baking powder to the orange juice and stir until there are no clumps. Add it to the sugar and oil mixture. Beat until combined.
3. Then add brandy, cinnamon and clove powder.
4. Use the beaters at low speed to gradually add the flour. Then, fold in the fruit or walnuts.
5. Grease a pan with oil and dust with sugar and flour. Then pour in the batter.
6. Bake in a medium oven (fan-forced 180°C) for about an hour or until a toothpick inserted into the cake comes out clean. Leave to cool on a rack.

Holy Great Martyr Phanourios,
Pray Unto God, For Us!